



THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

Charity number 1064776

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021

VOLUME XXI PROGRESS (CHIPPING NORTON AREA)



Earthworks west of Salford church, marking the formal gardens of the 17th- and 18th-century Salford House (demolished 1810)

Work on the rural parishes in this volume is now virtually complete, with **five new drafts** added to the VCH website (address overleaf). Those are **Great Rollright** and **Little Rollright** (the latter best known for the prehistoric Rollright Stones); **Salford** (named from an early medieval saltway running through the parish); **Swerford with Showell** (site of a riverside motte-and-bailey castle and medieval park); and a revised draft on **Hook Norton** (an Anglo-Saxon royal centre now best known for its brewery and its 19th- and 20th-century ironstone extraction, still visible in the landscape). Over Norton (historically part of Chipping Norton parish) will be added later.

Current work is focusing on **Chipping Norton** itself, a planned medieval town where we are liaising with others researching aspects of the town's history and its rich built environment. Draft sections will be made available on the website as work progresses, with the aim (despite inevitable disruption caused by Covid) of completing the bulk of the research by early 2023.

VOLUME XX UPDATE (SOUTH OXON CHILTERNES)

Our South Chilterns volume (on which work began in 2015) was completed on schedule just before Christmas, and is currently being typeset following some small delays within London University, while the VCH's national publication strategy was being reviewed. It will now appear early in 2022, when we hope to host a 'real' rather than virtual launch for our supporters. Focused on a group of **twelve distinctive 'strip parishes'** stretching from the River Thames

continued overleaf

GOODBYES ... AND HELLOS

Since the last Newsletter we have said goodbye to two key figures in the VCH Oxfordshire Trust: **Dr Kate Tiller**, who had served as Chair since 2003, and **Liam Tiller**, who fulfilled the equally important role of treasurer-cum-secretary from 2004. Their tenure saw the appearance of no fewer than six new VCH Oxfordshire Red Books and two paperbacks (on Burford and Henley), none of which could have happened without the Trust's tireless and energetic fundraising. Everyone using those books owes them a considerable debt, therefore.

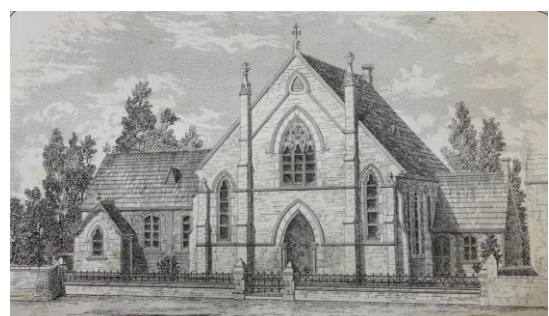
In their place we welcome **Professor William Whyte** of St John's College, Oxford, as Chair, and **Michael Heaton** as treasurer. **William Whyte writes:**

"It is a huge thrill but also a daunting prospect to follow Kate Tiller as Chair of Trustees. Her work as a local historian is widely and rightly acclaimed and her commitment to the VCH has been unparalleled. Together with Liam, she has made Oxfordshire the leading VCH County in the national project.

I am also delighted to welcome John Harwood (himself a founder Trustee) as Vice Chair, following Nigel Mogg's retirement after a long and distinguished period. We are all much looking forward to working with Simon Townley and his team as we move towards the completion of the Oxfordshire series."

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION WITH VCH GLOS.

Over the past year Dr Simon Draper of VCH Oxfordshire has spent an agreed proportion of his time working on the small Gloucestershire parish of West Littleton, under a contractual arrangement with the VCH Gloucestershire Trust. This has proved a happy experience all round and has now been successfully completed, bringing in some much-needed additional funds.



Hook Norton Wesleyan Methodist chapel (1875–1986)

continued from overleaf

up into the Chiltern hills (and including **Caversham**), the book will leave just three volumes needed to complete the Oxfordshire series. See below for how you can help us achieve that.

TOWARDS COMPLETION... **BUT WE NEED YOU!**

Three volumes (XXI on **Chipping Norton**, XXII on the **Chadlington/Enstone area**, and XXIII on the **Burford area**) are needed to complete the VCH's coverage of pre-1974 Oxfordshire, originally begun in the 1950s. VCH research is intensive, however, and to complete the series by the end of the decade we need to retain the current experienced team. Since the expiry of a 2014 bequest the Trust has been aiming to raise £155,000 a year, but shortfalls mean that **at least one post is under serious threat from March 2022. The project therefore urgently needs your help** if it is to keep to its schedules and complete this unique resource, valued by local and family historians and professionals alike.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE TRUST

The Trust relies on donations from individuals and from a range of grant-giving bodies. **You can make a contribution by:**

- **Regular donations by bankers' standing orders.** A standing order form can be requested from the Hon. Treasurer Michael Heaton at 48 High Street, Wheatley, Oxon. OX33 1XX, or downloaded from the VCH Oxfordshire website under 'Support VCH Oxfordshire' (see 'Accessing the VCH' opposite).
- **Cheques** made payable to 'The Oxfordshire VCH Trust', which can be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at the same address. (Also **CAF charity cheques.**)
- **Bank transfer** into the account of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History Trust, sort code 30-99-03, account no. 01228711.
- If you are able to **gift-aid** your donation we can increase the value of the donation by reclaiming the tax paid. Gift aid forms are available from the Treasurer or VCH website as above.

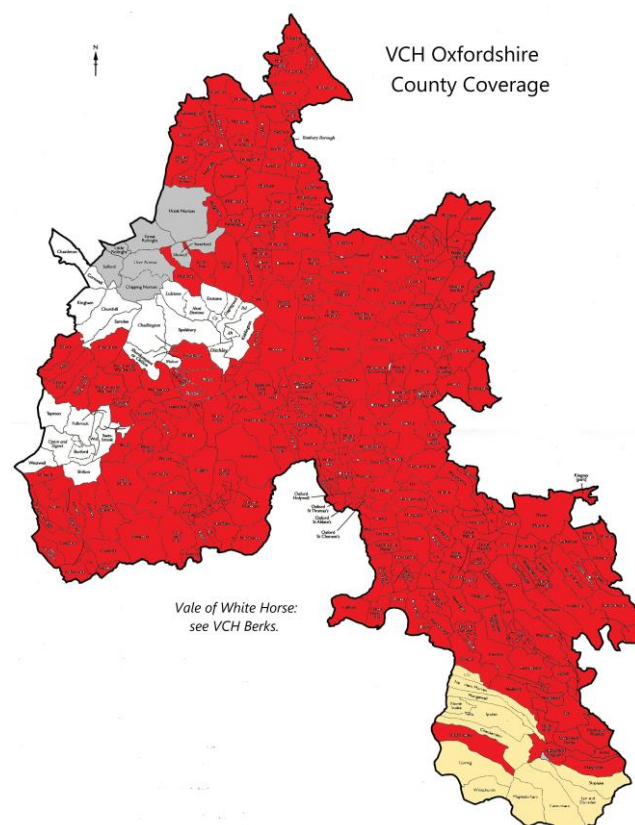
Donors are acknowledged in the published volumes unless they choose otherwise.

ACCESSING THE VCH

Draft work-in-progress is available as PDFs on the VCH Oxon. website at www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/oxfordshire while **published volumes** up to Volume XVIII are available at British History Online:

www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/vch-oxon

The **physical books** (including Volume XIX on **Wychwood Forest**, published 2019) are available to buy (see VCH website), or through public libraries and record offices including Oxfordshire History Centre.



VCH Coverage 2021: red areas published; yellow in production (Volume XX); grey in progress (Volume XXI); white to be started (Volumes XXII-XXIII: see opposite).

WHAT IS THE VCH OXFORDSHIRE TRUST?

The Trust was set up in 1997, to raise funds towards the completion of the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire's 'gold standard' histories of every town and parish in the historic county, as part of a national project. Working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and the Universities of London and Oxford, it is currently raising three quarters of the project's annual funding through donations from individuals, institutions and trusts.

THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

(registered Charity 1064776)

President: Tim Stevenson, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

Trustees: Prof. William Whyte (Chairman), John Harwood (Vice-Chairman), Sir Hugo Brunner, Christopher Butterfield, Prof. Robert Evans, Catherine Fulljames, Timothy Hallchurch, Tom Hassall, Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles, John Leighfield, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Nigel Mogg, Christopher Parker, Dr Jill Pellew, Dr Donald Ratcliffe, Sarah Taylor Michael Heaton (Hon. Treasurer)